

THE WHITE STONE

"To him that overcometh . . . will I give . . . a white stone, and in the stone a new name written which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it." - Rev. 2:17.

The reward of the faithful - pray what will it be?

If I open my Bible, I quickly may see;

At one promise alone at this time I will look -

It is one of the sweetest of all in the book.

"To the saint who o'ercomes I will give a white stone

With a name written on it for that saint alone;

What the new name will be on the stone I bestow,

The receiver alone shall be privileged to know."

A sweet promise is this, I am sure, from its sound,

But I doubt not, examined, more sweet 'twill be found.

I will mark every word which the promise contains;

'Tis a stone - and a white one - the victor obtains.

On the stone is a name - a new name it would seem.

A new name for the victor to bear, I should deem -

Yet the victor alone the new name is to read! -

All these facts to some secret undoubtedly lead.

"The White Stone" is a witness to him who receives,

Of the smile and approval of Jesus who gives;

"The new name" is a personal token to me
That my character known to my Saviour will be.

Though enrolled with a host of companions above,
I shall share for myself in my Saviour's sweet love;
And though voices unnumbered shall join in the song,
I rejoice that I shall not be lost in the throng.

But what means it, that none but myself is to know
The new name on the stone that my Lord will bestow?
Can it be that the name shall so seem to transcend
My desert; that I'll hide it from every friend?

I am lost, I acknowledge, what here to divine! -
Is it possible, though, that some joy will be mine
That I could not reveal, though I might be disposed?
Or - my lips by some instinct be sacredly closed?

Some such rays of its meaning have gleamed on my mind,
Though I hope not, while here, its full glory to find;
But what force in the words 'twill be mine to perceive
When from Jesus' own hand "THE WHITE STONE" I receive!

J. B. Rotherham, 1828-1910, translator of "The Emphasized Bible"